

# **Minutes**

Talbot County Board of Elections  
215 Bay Street  
Easton, MD 21601  
*February 17, 2021*

Present:

## **Board**

Joseph Secrist, President	(R)
Walter Black	(D)
Susan MacKinnon	(D)
Richard Bulman	(R)
Wadella Thomas	(R)

## **Staff**

Jeri Cook, Election Director

## **Board Attorney**

Lyndsey Ryan

## **Public**

None

The monthly meeting of the Talbot County Board of Elections was held on February 17, 2021. Due to restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, the meeting was held by videoconference and teleconference. The public was invited to listen by conference call and advised via the Board website and on the agenda of the procedure to do so. Mr. Secrist called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Mr. Secrist noted that a quorum was present.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Secrist asked if the Board had any corrections or additions to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 20, 2021 and the Special Meeting of February 3, 2021, copies of which had been forwarded to the Board Members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Black moved approval of the minutes of both meetings as presented. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

## **Addition/Changes to the Agenda**

Mr. Secrist asked if there were any additions to the agenda as published. Mr. Bulman moved approval of the agenda as presented. Mr. Black seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

## **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **Election Director's Report**

Ms. Cook provided a written report of the activities of the staff prior to the meeting. A copy of that report is attached. She elaborated on her written report as follows:

- Focus groups will be focusing on the selection of hardware and related training. Election judges are welcome to participate. She has nominated 2 judges from Talbot County to be part of the group.
- The \$20,650 grant was used toward the purchase of PPE and postage for mailed in ballots.
- The meeting with the County Council has been moved to March 9 at 3:15 p.m. All Board Members indicated that they intend to participate in this meeting, which will be virtual.
- Ms. Cook provided the results of the Manual Audit conducted on February 10, 2021 using a sample of ballots from the Vote By Mail canvass, provisional canvass, early voting and election day confirming the accuracy of the voting system for the 2020 General Election.
- Mr. Bulman asked if there were any proposed legislation that we should be aware of. Ms. Cook mentioned that there are over 40 bills affecting elections. One in particular that includes many of the other proposals. Mr. Secrist asked Ms. Cook to forward a copy of this bill to Members of the Board.

## **Board Attorney's Report**

Ms. Ryan had no items to report.

## **Old Business**

### **a. Facility for Election Office**

Ms. Cook provided Board Members with a written report describing the Board's space requirements. Board Members discussed Ms. Cook's report and provided suggestions for inclusion. This will be a topic of discussion with the County Council on March 9. One significant concern is the storage of dangerous chemicals in proximity to the staff and the expensive voting equipment. The county has been informed, but to date the chemicals are still in the location.

### **b. Review of Invoices**

Ms. Cook previously provided Board Members with copies of invoices received since the last meeting. There were no questions from Board Members.

c. Budget FY2021

Ms. Cook previously provided reports on expenditures recorded by the county through November. Also provided was a report on expenditures she was aware of up to December.

d. County Bulletins

Ms. Cook previously provided County Bulletins to each Board Member. There were no questions from Board Members

e. Budget FY2022

Ms. Cook provided copies of the proposed budget as finally approved by the Board.

**New Business**

There were no items for consideration.

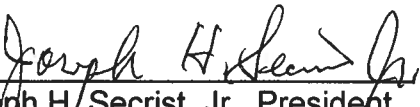
**Confirmation of next meeting**

Mr. Secrist noted that the next meeting of the Board will be Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Black moved adjournment of the meeting. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:14 p.m.

Attested,

  
Joseph H. Secrist, Jr., President

Respectfully submitted,

  
Richard B. Bulman, Secretary

## Director's Report

### February 2021

- Participating in the focus groups with for the purchase of the pollbooks
  - Reached out to a few election judges to join in to give feedback for the new pollbooks at the check in
- Revised budget that was voted on and approved at the special meeting on February 3, 2021 was submitted to the county the same day.
- Candidacy filing begins on February 23, 2021 and ends February 22, 2022.
- Have not received the invoice yet from the state but the second quarter billing is \$106,126.28.
  - This included the PPE for the general and that amount will be covered under the \$20,650 grant that was awarded by the Center for Tech and Civic Life.
    - The report submitted mid January and received the email last week that the report was approved by the Center for the full amount.
- The meeting with the county council will take place virtually on February 23, 2021 at 3:30 pm.
  - Who will be attending?
    - Must give information to county for access
  - Send document to county on Thursday